

Executive Registry

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PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS POLICY BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 16, 1950

STAT

Lt. General Walter Bedell Smith, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Smith:

President Truman, in creating the President's Communications Policy Board last February, directed the Board to study the present and potential use of radio and wire communications facilities by governmental and non-governmental agencies and to make and present to the President evaluations and recommendations in the national interest concerning (a) policies for the most effective use of radio frequencies by governmental and non-governmental users and alternative administrative arrangements in the Federal Government for the sound effectuation of such policies, (b) policies with respect to international radio and wire communications, (c) the relationship of Government communications to non-government communications, and (d) such related policy matters as the Board may determine.

In a letter to Irvin Stewart, Chairman of the Communications Policy Board, President Truman pointed to certain particular problems which he thought required the Board's attention: the extent to which our government in time of peace continues to operate its own communications facilities; the question of merging the overseas operations of our commercial communications companies, and most pressing of all, the scarcity of radio frequencies in relation to the steadily growing demand.

President Truman went on to say, however, that "Problems such as these cannot adequately be considered on a piecemeal basis. They must be viewed as parts of the broader problem of developing a total national communications policy, designed to assure the most effective utilization of the various forms of communication facilities, and the full satisfaction of those needs which are most essential to the broad public interest."

The President's Board is addressing itself to this larger problem.

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As an integral step in developing recommendations for a broader national communications policy, the Board has directed me to invite the views of the Central Intelligence Agency on any matter which it considers relevant to the Board's broad mission. Since the Board is scheduled to go out of existence on February 17, 1951, it would be helpful if we could receive these views at an early date. #

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. H. Thomson

Charles A. H. Thomson
Staff Director

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